

Response to Office Action mailed January 18, 2008

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 18-22 are pending in this application. Claims 18 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants have canceled claims 14-17 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer for being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Objections

Claim 22 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 22 has been amended to depend from claim 18 and further to set forth that the slider is held by the swing arm and the means for heating the information pit, magnetic flux detecting means and the head for applying the magnetic recording field are installed in the slider. Figure 13 supports the amendment of claim 22. In particular, Figure 13 shows heating means (pin hole 135 through which light from optical fiber 133 is transmitted), magnetic field detection means and a recording head integrated on the slider. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Applicants have amended claim 22 to depend from claim 18, as mentioned above, and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph should be withdrawn.

Claim 18 has been amended to set forth means for controlling the orientation of the shape of the heated area with respect to the track according to a radial position on the disk so that the orientation is coincident with a longitudinal direction of the magnetic flux detecting means according to the track. The amendment is supported by the application. In particular, as set forth in the Specification, the appropriate shape of the heating area at respective radial positions is obtained by rotating part of all of the heating means in accordance with the radial position. See, for example, the sentence bridging pages 11 and 12 of the Specification which states that since the sensitivity distribution of the magnetic flux detecting element is changed in accordance with the swing arm orientation supporting it, the appropriate shape of the heated area at respective radial position is obtainable by rotating a part or the whole the heating means in accordance with the radial position.

Further, as shown in Fig. 10, and as set forth on page 34, the collimated beam radiated from the optical head fixing part 107 is led to the movable part 104 with a mirror 103, and focused onto the recording film of the recording medium 108. See also page 34, lines 8-12, which set forth that the mirror 103 is designed so as to rotate synchronously in accordance with the rotation of the swing arm 105 and to be led appropriately by the optical bead movable part 104.

Still further, in the description of embodiment 3 of the present invention, as shown in Fig. 14, a pinhole 135 through which light from optical fiber 133 is transmitted, is used to heat the recording medium 137 and is formed to have a

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common longitudinal directional with the magnetic flux detecting device 134, and the magnetic wall direction of the magnetic domain recorded by this heating means in the thermo-magnetic recording is made approximately in accord with the magnetic flux detecting means. See the sentence bridging pages 36 and 37 of the Specification, for example. Therefore, as amended, claim 18 positively recites the structure that achieves the claimed result, and therefore claim 18 complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 18, 19, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a/b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,091,673 to Murakami et al. Murakami is relied upon for disclosing a magneto-optical system including an optical head (1) that heats a recording medium. However, Murakami does not disclose the claimed means for controlling an orientation of a shape of a heated area with respect to the track according to a radial position on the disk so that the orientation is coincident with a longitudinal direction of the magnetic flux detecting means according to the track. To one having ordinary skill in the art, the optical unit shown in Figures 1, 3 and 6 of Murakami provides an optical spot that is circular. As discussed by Applicants, when a light spot of an optical head as the heating means produces a heated area that is substantially circular, the greater the distance becomes between the magnetic wall of the recorded magnetic domain and the tracking center of the heating means, the more of an inclination there will be of the magnetic wall, as shown in Fig. 4. See page 7, line 4 to page 8, line 1 of the specification. Accordingly, claim 18, as amended, and

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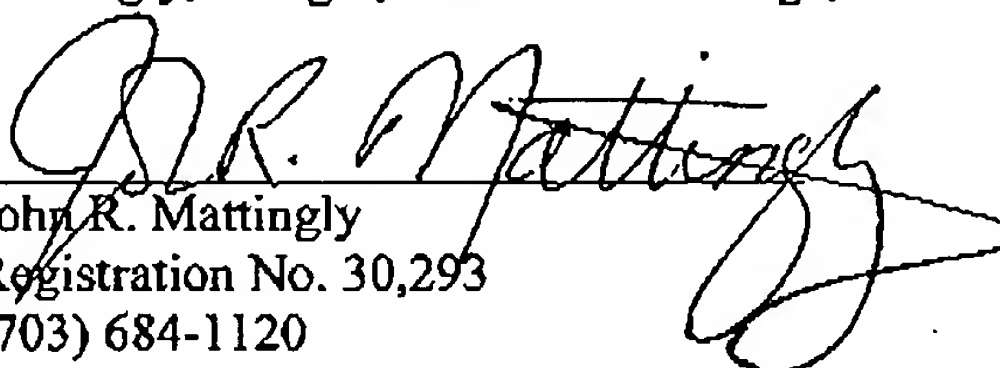
the dependent claims 19, 20 and 21 are not anticipated by Murakami and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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